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P:08 Cummins, Australia in Test groove for South Africa series

J&K Can Emerge as Competitive GCC Destination: Omar Abdullah

CM invites investors, assures business-friendly policies and quality employment opportunities

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, OCTOBER 9: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday invited industry leaders to establish Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in Jammu and Kashmir, assuring government support, ease of doing business and a favourable investment environment. Addressing the J&K GCC Summit 2026 at IIM Jammu virtually, he said the region's skilled youth, educational institutions and connectivity could attract technology-driven businesses, generate employment and retain local talent. The two-day summit brings together industry leaders, policymakers and academics to explore investment opportunities and



sustainable economic growth.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called upon industry leaders to explore Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging destination for Global Capability Centres

(GCCs), emphasising that the government is committed to creating a competitive, business-friendly ecosystem that attracts investment, fosters innovation and generates meaningful employment.

"We have to make Jammu and Kashmir a place that is competitive, a place that is attractive to do business, a place where you can make money, and a place where we can compete with the Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities around the country," the Chief Minister said while addressing the inaugural session of the J&K GCC Summit 2026 at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu. He addressed the gathering virtually from New Delhi.

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URS-E-NUND RESHI :

Thousands Throng Charar-e-Sharief as Kashmir Observes Annual Urs of Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA)

IGP Kashmir Reviews Security Arrangements; Devotees Offer Prayers for Peace, Harmony and Prosperity



Thousands of Devotees throng the revered shrine of Hazrat Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) at Charar-e-Sharief during the annual Urs in J&K's Budgam District - HT Photo - Reyaz Badana -

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HT BRIEFLY

High Court Directs Revival of Kashmir MBBS Student's Passport

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 9: The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has directed authorities to revive the passport of a Kashmiri student pursuing an MBBS course in Iran after it was impounded, allowing her to pursue the remaining period of her medical education.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal passed the directions while disposing of an appeal filed by the student, who is enrolled at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Kish Campus.

The case arose after authorities issued show-cause notices in March and April 2026 and subsequently ordered the impounding of her passport on May 4. The action was linked to a case registered against her father in 1997, according to reports on the proceedings. The student challenged the action, arguing that the passport had been

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Army Recovers, Destroys Three Landmines Along LoC in Poonch

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

MENDHAR, OCT 9: Three landmines were recovered and destroyed by the Army in forward areas along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, with two detected near the fence at Basooni Top in Mendhar sector and another during routine patrolling in Balakote.

Officials said an Army bomb disposal squad reached Basooni Top and safely destroyed the two mines. In a separate incident, troops detected a landmine in the Balakote

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Former Ayurvedic Doctor Arrested in Multiple Kashmir Land Fraud Cases

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 9: An 80-year-old former Ayurvedic doctor has been arrested in connection with multiple alleged land fraud cases in Kashmir, including transactions involving properties belonging to Kashmiri migrant families, after investigators traced several complaints linked to the use of different identities and allegedly forged documents.

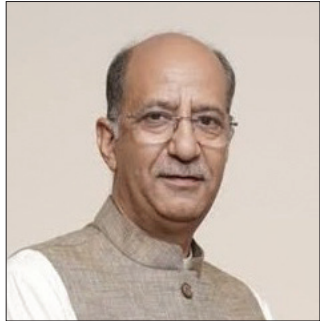
The accused, identified by police as Somnath Koul, was arrested after a prolonged search and is currently lodged in Srinagar Central Jail in judicial custody, according to reports citing the Economic Offences Wing of the Crime Branch.

Investigators allege that the accused operated under several names, including Brijnath Bhat, Hadinath

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Nasir Aslam Invites Hyderabad Tourists to Explore J&K

Advisor to CM highlights Kashmir Marathon, adventure tourism and stronger travel-industry ties



HT NEWS NETWORK

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 9: Advisor to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Friday invited tourists from Hyderabad and across the country to explore Jammu and Kashmir's scenic beauty, cultural heritage and adventure tourism opportunities.

Addressing the Travel and Tourism Fair in Hyderabad, he highlighted the upcoming Kashmir Marathon and called for stronger partnerships between tour operators and travel stakeholders to promote tourism and increase visitor arrivals.

Advisor to the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Friday invited tourists from Hyderabad and other parts of the country to explore the Union Territory's diverse tourism destinations, highlighting its rich cultural heritage, scenic landscapes and growing potential as an adventure tourism destination.

Addressing the media at the Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF) in Hyderabad, Wani said Jammu and Kashmir offers

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Darakhshan Andrabi Condemns Alleged Assault on Kashmiri Youth in Delhi

Waqf Board Chairperson demands impartial probe, says political differences cannot justify violence



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 9: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Friday condemned the alleged assault on Kashmiri youth Fahim Nazir in New Delhi, calling the incident deeply disturbing and demanding an impartial investigation.

She said expressing political views or admiration for Prime Minister Narendra Modi could not justify violence, urging authorities to establish the facts and take legal action against anyone found responsible.

Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson of the Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, has strongly condemned the alleged assault on Kashmiri youth Fahim Nazir in New Delhi, calling the incident deeply disturbing and demanding an impartial investigation.

"Fahim Nazir is a son of Kashmir and a son of India. The Prime Minister is the Prime Minister of the entire nation, and being his fan or expressing

MORE ON P 02

Altaf Bukhari Seeks Compensation for Hailstorm-Hit Farmers, Orchardists

Crop damage across Kashmir and fire at Sopore apple storage shed prompt demand for urgent relief

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 9: Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday urged the government to assess hailstorm damage to crops and orchards across North and South Kashmir and provide adequate compensation to affected farmers. He also expressed concern over a fire that gutted an apple storage shed in Sempora, Sopore, reportedly destroying harvested produce, and called for timely assistance to help fruit growers recover their losses.



Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday expressed deep concern over the extensive damage caused to crops and orchards by the recent hailstorm. He also

expressed grief over a fire incident in Sempora, Sopore, where an apple storage shed was gutted, causing massive losses to the stored produce. He urged the authorities to assess the losses promptly and ensure adequate compensation and timely assistance for the affected farmers and orchardists.

In his statement, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I am saddened to learn that the devastating hailstorm on Thursday has caused extensive damage to standing crops and orchards in several villages

MORE ON P 02

HT BOTTOM NEWS

New CAPF Act Comes into Force Amid Supreme Court Challenge

Law establishes common service framework; IPS deputation to senior posts remains contentious

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9: The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, came into force on Thursday, establishing a common framework for recruitment, promotions and service conditions in the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB. However, provisions reserving senior positions for IPS officers on deputation have triggered opposition from CAPF cadre officers, who argue that these restrictions limit career progression. The law's constitutional validity and its implications for promotions remain under challenge before the Supreme Court. : The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, which establishes a common



framework governing recruitment, promotions, deputation and service conditions of officers in five central

paramilitary forces, came into force on Thursday, even as its constitutional validity remains

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MeT Forecasts Fresh Wet Spell, Snowfall in Higher Reaches

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 9: Kashmir is expected to witness a brief improvement in weather conditions before another spell of rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds develops next week, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast, following heavy rain and hailstorms that affected several parts of the Valley on Thursday.

The India Meteorological Department has indicated that weather conditions may remain largely dry on Friday, with the possibility of a brief spell of light rain at isolated places towards the evening. Light rain is also possible at scattered

places on Saturday, October 10, accompanied by the possibility of light snowfall over higher reaches.

According to the forecast issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, generally dry weather is expected on October 11 and 12. A brief spell of rain may occur towards the evening or night of October 13, while October 14 and 15 are likely to bring generally cloudy conditions, with light rain and light snowfall over higher reaches at many places. Thunderstorms and gusty winds are also possible during this period. The department's warning bulletin

MORE ON P 02

Javed Rana inaugurates Wildlife Eco-Tourism Hut at Mughal Road in Surankote

■ HT News Network

SURANKOTE, OCTOBER 9: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inaugurated a Wildlife Eco-Tourism Hut along the Mughal Road in Surankote area of Poonch district, developed by the Department of Wildlife Protection at an estimated cost of 1.87 crore under the UT Capex Budget.

Emphasising the importance of eco-tourism infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister said that such facilities are essential for harnessing the tourism potential of ecologically rich areas while ensuring that development remains aligned with environmental conservation.

"The Mughal Road is endowed with immense natural beauty and ecological significance. Developing eco-tourism facilities in this area will provide visitors with an opportunity to experience nature more closely while promoting awareness about our rich biodiversity and the importance of wildlife conservation," Rana said.

He observed that the eco-tourism hut would add to the visitor infrastructure along the Mughal Road and help promote nature-based tourism in the region. Such facilities,



he said, can encourage visitors to explore the area's natural attractions while fostering a greater appreciation of forests, wildlife and fragile mountain ecosystems.

"Our objective is to promote tourism that respects nature and contributes to the conservation of our natural heritage. Eco-tourism must go hand in hand with environmental protection, ensuring that the ecological character of these areas is preserved even as tourism-related activities expand,"

Forest Minister said. Highlighting the potential socio-economic benefits of the initiative, Rana said that the development of eco-tourism infrastructure could generate opportunities for local communities through tourism-related services and associated economic activities. Greater tourist interest, he added, could support local livelihoods while encouraging communities to participate in protecting the region's natural resources. The Minister stressed that the long-term success of such facilities

would depend on their proper maintenance, effective management and responsible use. He called for sustained efforts to ensure that eco-tourism initiatives contribute meaningfully to conservation objectives and provide lasting benefits to the local population.

"We must ensure that the benefits of tourism reach local communities without compromising our environmental priorities. Responsible eco-tourism can help create livelihood opportunities, strengthen conservation awareness and establish a sustainable relationship between people and nature," Rana added. The Minister stressed that the long-term success of such facilities would depend on their proper maintenance, effective management and responsible use. He called for sustained efforts to ensure that eco-tourism initiatives contribute meaningfully to conservation objectives and provide lasting benefits to the local population.

"We must ensure that the benefits of tourism reach local communities without compromising our environmental priorities. Responsible eco-tourism can help create livelihood opportunities, strengthen conservation awareness and establish a sustainable relationship between people and nature," Rana added.

Budgam Police felicitated for busting fake employment syndicate and digitisation of Beat Policing

■ HT News Network

Budgam October 09: IGP Kashmir Shri Sujit Kumar Singh, IPS, distributed commendation certificates, appreciation letters and rewards to police personnel of District Budgam in recognition of their exemplary work and contribution towards effective policing. The event was held in the presence of DIG Central Kashmir Range Shri Rajiv Pandey, IPS.

The recipients included SSP Budgam Shri Hari Prasad KK, IPS; SDPO Magam Shri Ashraf Lissery, JKPS; SHO Police Station Beerwah Shri Mudassir Nassar; SHO Police Station Magam Shri Khurshid Awan; and 17 other police officials.

The team of Police Station Beerwah was recognised for its significant contribution in exposing a fake employment syndicate, while Police Station Magam was appreciated for adopting the Digital Beat Policing System, reflecting a commitment to technology-driven and citizen-centric policing.

The recognition underscores the importance of professional dedication, proactive investigation and innovation in policing, while motivating police personnel to continue working towards the safety and security of the public.

J&K Police cracks theft case in Baramulla; Stolen property Recovered

■ HT News Network

Baramulla October 09: In a swift action, J&K Police in Baramulla successfully solved a theft case registered at Police Station Kreeri and recovered stolen property, leading to the arrest of the accused involved in the crime.

Police Station Kreeri registered a case on the complaint of Tariq Ahmad Zargar, resident of Kreeri, regarding the theft of approximately 100 kg of copper sheets from his residential premises during the intervening night of 07/08 October 2026. During the course of investigation, technical and human intelligence were collected and analysed, leading to the identification of certain suspects. During questioning, Muzamil Ahmad Gojree, son of Gh. Mohammad Gojree, resident of Tilgam Bala, disclosed his involvement in the commission of the offence.

Investigation revealed that the suspect had allegedly visited the complainant's premises during the intervening night on a scooter and entered the premises with the intention of committing theft. He allegedly removed two jute bags containing approximately 50 kg of copper sheets each, transported the stolen property on the scooter and concealed it in an orchard beneath a heap of wooden logs. Acting upon the disclosure, a police team proceeded to the identified location and conducted a search, during which approximately 100 kg of stolen copper sheets/plates were recovered from beneath the heap of wooden logs. The recovered property has been taken into possession as per prescribed legal procedure and is being dealt with as case property.

The recovery marks a significant breakthrough in the investigation and provides important corroborative evidence regarding the commission of the offence. Further investigation is underway to establish the complete sequence of events, verify the involvement of any other person(s), and collect additional technical, documentary and forensic evidence.

J&K Police remains committed to safeguarding public property and maintaining law and order across the district.

DC Bandipora reviews winter preparedness for Gurez

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review winter preparedness for Gurez and Tulail at Dak Bungalow, Badugam, Tulail, with concerned district and sectoral officers.

The meeting focused on ensuring uninterrupted essential services, timely snow clearance, road connectivity, availability of essential commodities and adequate healthcare arrangements in the snowbound areas ahead of the winter season.

Reviewing the status of roads, bridges and ongoing infrastructure projects, the DC sought details from the concerned engineering departments, including the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)



and PMGSY. She directed the officers to expedite pending works, resolve bottlenecks and road alignment issues, and adhere to strict timelines to ensure completion of critical projects before heavy snowfall.

The DC stressed the need for advance planning and effective coordination among BRO, Roads and Buildings (R&B) and Mechanical Engineering Department (MED) for timely snow clearance. She directed the concerned departments to submit road-wise snow clearance plans to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Gurez, and ensure the availability

of adequate machinery, equipment and manpower, with priority to main roads and vital link roads.

On the occasion, SDM Gurez, Mukhtar Ahmad highlighted the requirement for snow clearance machinery at Razdan Top and Kanzalwan, particularly for clearing the Z-Khushi curve and Rane Mode. The issue regarding mechanised snow clearance of the Dawar helipad was also discussed. The DC directed the Executive Engineers of PWD and MED to formulate a coordinated plan to ensure timely clearance of the helipad for emergency requirements.

DDC Reasi reviews progress of HADP and JKICP, directs regular monitoring of established units

■ HT News Network

REASI, OCTOBER 09: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting to review the progress and implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKICP) in the district.

The DDC undertook a detailed review of the achievements and implementation status of the twin initiatives, with emphasis on farmer welfare, adoption of modern agricultural practices, enhancement of productivity and strengthening of the agriculture and allied sectors. He also reviewed ongoing activities, farmer registration, awareness campaigns and the delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The DDC directed the concerned officers to regularly monitor all units established under the initiatives to assess their functioning, ensure effective utilisation and evaluate the benefits being extended to farmers. He also approved cases under JKICP and stressed the need for timely processing of eligible cases to ensure that farmers receive the intended assistance without unnecessary delays.

Emphasising the importance of awareness



and outreach, the DDC directed the officers to intensify publicity regarding the various components of HADP and ensure that farmers across the district are adequately informed about the schemes, eligibility criteria and available benefits. He called for close coordination among the concerned departments to address implementation-related issues, expedite pending cases and ensure that the benefits of both initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries.

He underscored the need for sustained monitoring, effective field-level implementation and regular follow-up to maximise the impact of the programmes and promote sustainable growth, improved productivity and economic prosperity in the agriculture and allied sectors.

40-Hours Role Play Training Programme on Mediation Concludes at J&K Judicial Academy

■ HT News Network

Srinagar/Jammu, OCTOBER 09: The 40-Hours Role Play Training Programme for Advocates/Experts, concluded today at the Srinagar and Jammu campuses of the J&K Judicial Academy. The practical training sessions were held on 05th, 06th, 08th and 09th October, 2026, under the aegis of the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India organized by the Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, in collaboration with the J&K Judicial Academy.

The second day of the Srinagar session was graced by Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who highlighted the significance of mediation in strengthening the justice delivery system. Emphasizing its transformative

potential, Chief Justice observed that mediation is not merely a professional skill but also a means of becoming a better human being and a more effective advocate, public prosecutor or judge. He underscored that practical exercises and role-play sessions foster empathy, understanding and sensitivity in resolving disputes.

Drawing upon examples from Indian epics, religious traditions and the history of Kashmir, Chief Justice highlighted the deep-rooted cultural and historical significance of mediation as a means of peaceful dispute resolution. Referring to Surah An-Nisa of the Holy Quran, Chief Justice observed that it envisages a process remarkably close to modern mediation, contemplating the appointment of representatives from both sides of a dispute with the express objective of restoring harmony. Chief Justice emphasized that



such examples across religious and cultural traditions demonstrate the enduring relevance of reconciliation and amicable settlement in resolving

disputes. Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairman, Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and

Ladakh, was also present on the occasion. He continued guidance and support have been instrumental in advancing mediation initiatives in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Rajeev Gupta, I/C Director, J&K Judicial Academy, in his introductory address, welcomed the dignitaries, resource persons and participants, and highlighted the importance of practical training in developing effective mediation skills.

He emphasized that the interactive and role-play sessions provide participants with valuable hands-on experience in understanding the mediation process and facilitating amicable dispute resolution. He also underscored the importance of strengthening mediation as an effective means of resolving disputes and promoting a culture of mutual understanding and reconciliation.

JMC strengthens Tawi River Conservation with installation of Visarjan Patras at Gujjar Nagar Bridge

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, OCTOBER 09: To preserve the ecological sanctity and religious significance of the Suryaputri Tawi, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today installed and inaugurated dedicated Visarjan Patras at Gujjar Nagar Bridge to facilitate the proper disposal of religious offerings and prevent pollution of the sacred river.

The initiative was inaugurated by Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation and Mission Director, SBM-U2.0 Dr. Devansh Yadav, in presence of Shri 108 Swami Mahadev Saraswati Maharaj of Har Ki Pauri Mandir and Pujari Naresh Sharma of Shri Raghunath Mandir. The occasion was attended by Health Officer JMC Dr. Shahid Hussain, Nodal Officer, IEC Dr. Priyanka Malhotra, Swachhata Executives and other officers/officials.

The installation of Visarjan Patras provides devotees with a designated and dignified facility for depositing flowers, cotton wicks, incense ash, paper and other materials generated during religious rituals, thereby discouraging their direct disposal into the River Tawi. The initiative reflects JMC's continued efforts to integrate environmental protection with religious practices and



strengthen sustainable waste management along the riverfront.

As part of the Corporation's waste management approach, the collected material will be segregated for appropriate processing. Biodegradable offerings will be channelled for composting and utilised to support greenery in municipal parks and green belts, while recyclable materials will be sent for further processing. The initiative will help minimise waste entering the river and promote the principles of resource recovery and a circular waste management system.

Appreciating the initiative, Shri 108 Swami Mahadev Saraswati Maharaj and Pujari Naresh Sharma urged devotees and citizens to cooperate with JMC in maintaining the cleanliness and sanctity of the Tawi.

HT EDITORIAL

Don't Buy False Promises : Public Vigilance Is the Best Defence Against Job Fraud

Budgam Police deserve appreciation for busting a fake employment racket, but eliminating such fraud requires public awareness, responsible action and collective vigilance.

The menace of fake employment rackets has emerged as a serious concern, exploiting the aspirations of unemployed youth and the financial vulnerability of their families. At a time when securing a government or private-sector job has become a challenging task, unscrupulous individuals often take advantage of the desperation of job seekers by promising appointments in exchange for money. Such fraudsters not only rob innocent people of their hard-earned savings but also shatter their dreams, undermine public confidence and inflict emotional distress on entire families. The recent action by Budgam Police in busting a fake employment syndicate operating in the district is a commendable step towards protecting the public from such exploitation. The decision of Inspector General of Police Kashmir, Sujit K Singh, to felicitate the police personnel involved in cracking the racket reflects the importance of recognising professional dedication and effective policing. The appreciation extended to the Beerwah Police team for its role in the case sends a positive message that those who exploit the hopes of unemployed youth will not go unnoticed.

The recognition of Budgam Police for introducing the Digital Beat Policing System is equally significant. In an increasingly complex society, policing must evolve with changing circumstances and make effective use of technology to improve public service, strengthen local intelligence and establish closer links between law enforcement agencies and citizens. Such initiatives can contribute to a safer environment when supported by public cooperation and institutional accountability.

However, the fight against employment fraud cannot be left to the police alone. While law enforcement agencies have a crucial responsibility to identify, investigate and bring offenders to justice, the general public must also exercise caution before trusting individuals who claim to have influence in government departments or promise jobs in return for money. One of the biggest reasons such frauds continue to flourish is the willingness of people to believe that employment can be secured through personal connections, middlemen or unofficial payments. Fraudsters frequently present themselves as influential persons, produce misleading documents, invoke the names of senior officials or claim to have access to recruitment authorities. They exploit the anxiety of job seekers, convincing them that a payment made today will guarantee a government appointment tomorrow.

The public must understand that no verbal assurance, personal connection or payment to an unauthorised intermediary can guarantee a legitimate appointment. Recruitment must be pursued through official procedures, notified vacancies and authorised selection mechanisms. Any demand for money in exchange for a promised appointment should immediately raise suspicion.

Parents and guardians have an especially important role to play. In their desire to secure a bright future for their children, families sometimes invest their life savings, borrow money or sell valuable possessions after being persuaded by people claiming to arrange jobs. Such decisions, often driven by hope rather than verification, can leave families facing serious financial hardship. Before handing over money or personal documents, families must independently verify the authenticity of recruitment notices and consult the concerned department through its official channels. Young people, too, must resist the temptation of shortcuts. The pressure of unemployment can make false promises appear attractive, but falling into the trap of fraudsters only adds to the difficulties already faced by job seekers. No candidate should surrender original certificates, banking credentials, one-time passwords or sensitive personal information to an unknown person claiming to facilitate recruitment. Suspicious calls, messages, advertisements and social media offers must be treated with caution, particularly when they demand advance payments or promise guaranteed selection without a transparent recruitment process. Public awareness is therefore as important as police action. People should verify claims before acting upon them, preserve payment receipts and electronic communications, and promptly report suspected fraud to the police. Timely complaints can help investigators identify the accused, trace financial transactions, protect other potential victims and prevent similar offences. Silence, whether caused by embarrassment or fear of social stigma, often allows fraudsters to continue targeting innocent people. Community organisations, educational institutions, local representatives and the media can also contribute by spreading awareness about common methods of employment fraud. Awareness campaigns should reach not only urban centres but also villages and remote areas, where people may have limited access to reliable information about recruitment procedures. The message must be clear: never pay for an unofficial promise of employment, and always verify before trusting.

At the same time, the authorities should continue strengthening mechanisms for receiving complaints, investigating financial fraud and communicating verified recruitment information to the public. Effective coordination between police stations, cybercrime units and relevant government departments can help detect fraudulent networks at an early stage. Swift investigations and lawful action against those found responsible would serve as a deterrent to others contemplating similar crimes. The role played by Budgam Police deserves appreciation because it demonstrates how professional policing can help safeguard citizens from organised deception. The recognition of officers and personnel involved in the operation is an encouraging reminder that dedicated public service matters. The introduction of digital beat policing also offers an opportunity to improve grassroots engagement and encourage citizens to share information about suspicious activities.

Nevertheless, lasting success will depend on a partnership between the police and the people. The police must remain vigilant, responsive and accessible, while citizens must act responsibly, question doubtful claims and cooperate with investigations. Every individual who refuses to pay a fraudster, verifies an employment offer or reports suspicious activity helps prevent another family from becoming a victim. Unemployment is a genuine social and economic challenge, and the aspirations of young people deserve respect. Those aspirations must never become a source of profit for dishonest individuals. A job obtained through a legitimate selection process brings dignity and security; a job promised through deception brings only loss, anxiety and disappointment. The lesson is simple: do not trust promises blindly, do not pay for unofficial assurances, and do not allow desperation to override common sense. While the police continue their commendable efforts to expose fraudulent networks, public vigilance remains the strongest defence against those who prey on the dreams of the unemployed. A well-informed and alert society can make it increasingly difficult for such rackets to survive.

HT SATURDAY GOSSIP



By YOUSUF MIR, Bandipora
Email: yousufmir555@gmail.com

(This short story is set against a tragic incident in which a mother tries to keep her child away from the fire of revenge, striving to preserve humanity in the face of violence.)

In the evenings, after the day's work was over, Shabbu would sometimes step outside the village for a short while simply to ease his mind. But whenever he did, his mother would insist that he return home early. Perhaps that was why he hesitated to go beyond the village or stayed away for only a little while. Her words had become deeply etched in his mind. Whenever he sat outside for more than ten or fifteen minutes, he would immediately remember his mother's warning: "The times are bad. Come home."

He often sank into the depths of his thoughts and wondered what his mother was really trying to tell him, something he had been unable to understand. "Am I doing something wrong?" he wondered. He examined himself carefully, searching his own conscience. Then he said to himself, "No... there is nothing like that..."

AMAR



"Believe me, I am no better than a prisoner. Whether the sun rises or sets, it makes no difference to me... I have hardly ever been able to observe the world outside. Meeting friends is out of the question. Even visiting my maternal uncle or aunts is forbidden to me. I only manage to go to school two or three times a week. The rest of the time, I am confined within these four walls. And whenever I dare to speak... the answer is always the same: the times are bad."

These thoughts gradually took root in Shabbu's mind and made him increasingly stubborn. There was a noticeable change in his behaviour. He began to argue more often and to doubt everything. So much so that he even began to question his mother's affection for him. He desperately wanted to escape the suffocating atmosphere of that prison... far away, very far away, into open spaces where he could breathe deeply with his arms wide open.

Meanwhile, this sudden change in Shabbu's behaviour left his mother,

Reshmaan, deeply troubled. She became both agitated and anxious. Her greatest fear was that Shabbu might somehow discover that she was not his real mother. When Reshmaan had taken Shabbu into her care, she had placed her hand on the head of his real mother, Fatima, and sworn that she would never reveal to Shabbu the truth behind his father's brutal and inhuman death.

Reshmaan could never forget the helpless expression on Fatima's face, the face of a woman whose husband had been murdered with unimaginable cruelty. Perhaps that tragic scene would remain before her eyes forever: on a dark night, Ali, asleep in her arms, was riddled with bullets by a group of unknown gunmen.

Fatima had always cried out against the brutality inflicted upon her when, in a desperate struggle between life and death, she tried to take her wounded husband to the hospital. On the way, she came face to face once again with the same gunmen,

who had been lying in wait. They watched as alertly as beasts of prey, determined not to let any attempt to save Ali succeed.

Fatima's final effort failed when they tore away the temporary bandages from Ali's wounds and kept dancing around him until all his blood had drained away. And so, Ali's lifeless body was finally left in Fatima's hands.

Fatima had always possessed the courage to face life's trials bravely. But what had happened to her was beyond her strength to endure. She had been robbed of everything; her entire world had been taken away from her.

Now she wanted only one thing: to see Ali live forever... immortal... Amar.

She wanted, at all costs, to protect the child growing within her womb, Ali's unborn child. Perhaps that was why, at the very moment of his birth, she entrusted Shabbu to Reshmaan, knowing that the child was Ali's last legacy.

Above all, she wanted Shabbu to live without revenge, to live a life free from hatred and bloodshed, so that violence and killing would finally come to an end. She wanted revenge itself to disappear from the world.

She knew what it meant to be a mother. She did not want any mother to have her child torn away from her. She did not want any wife to lose her husband. She did not want any sister to lose her brother.

She wanted only this: that her Shabbu should live like a human being, and nothing more than a human being... so that humanity might remain alive and Ali might remain Amar (immortal).

Saffron The Red Gold Kashmir Valley

do this work. This is why our grandmothers never wasted a single strand. One strand was one flower, and one flower was a morning's cold labour.

Now let me tell you the chemistry that makes this flower so magical. In my chemistry book, there are three names that I will never

little royal. Without picrocrocin, saffron would be just colour. With it, it becomes taste.

Three chemicals – colour, fragrance, and taste. It is exactly like Kashmir itself. Colour from our Chinar, fragrance from our Kehwa, and taste from our Wazwan.

But saffron is more than chemistry. For us



BY-MOOL RAJ

But saffron is more than chemistry. For us Kashmiris, it is medicine, memory, and our living tradition. We all call it Kesar – a few red threads that my mother keeps in a small glass box, locked as if it were jewellery. And in truth, it is jewellery. In Pampore, they still call it red gold, and the world still pays more for it than for gold itself. As a student of chemistry, I have always been fascinated by how something so small can hold so much science, history, and emotion at once. This time, I wanted to write about something even smaller but even more powerful – a flower that blooms only for fifteen days a year, yet stays in our lives forever.

Saffron's scientific name is *Crocus sativus*. It does not grow wild like other flowers. It has to be cared for, planted by hand, and loved like a child. In late October, when Kashmir is preparing for winter, the fields of Pampore turn purple. Before sunrise, Kashmiri women walk into the cold fields with baskets. They pick the flowers one by one. Each flower has only three stigmas – three tiny red threads. Those three threads are the saffron we use.

To understand its value, consider this number. To make just one kilogram of pure saffron, you need to pluck around 150,000 flowers. That means 450,000 stigmas separated by hand, under the sun, with patience. No machine can



forget because they belong to saffron.

The first is "Crocin": Crocin is the chemical that gives saffron its royal golden colour. When you put a strand in warm milk, crocin dissolves and slowly turns the whole cup golden yellow. It is a water-soluble carotenoid, which is rare in nature.

The second is "Safranal": Safranal is the reason saffron smells like heaven. When saffron is dried, picrocrocin converts into safranal. That sweet, honey-like, slightly earthy fragrance that fills our kitchen during Eid is safranal. You cannot make this fragrance in a factory. You need the sun of Pampore.

The third is Picrocrocin: It gives saffron its unique taste – a little bitter, a little sweet, a

Kashmiris, it is medicine, memory, and our living tradition.

In Kashmiri tradition, no special day is complete without saffron. When a baby is born in our homes, the first thing given to the mother is warm milk with saffron and almonds to give her strength. It is our first welcome to the world.

When a daughter gets married, her Kehwa is made more special with extra saffron as a sign of love and honour. On Eid, our mothers make phirni and kheer, and the golden colour on top is always saffron. Even in our Wazwan, especially in Zafrani Pulao and Shufta, saffron is what makes the dish royal. Without saffron, a feast is just food. With saffron, it becomes a Kashmiri feast. And the most beautiful tradition is Kehwa.

Every evening in every Kashmiri house, the samovar boils, and Kehwa is made with cardamom, cinnamon, and a single strand of saffron. That Kehwa is not just a drink. It is our culture. It is where families sit together, elders tell stories, and guests are honoured. When we serve a guest Kehwa with saffron, we are saying without words, "You are special for us; you are family." Our ancestors have used saffron in Kehwa for centuries to stay warm in harsh winters. It is a thread that connects generations.

I still remember when I was a child and had a cold, my mother would warm milk, add one strand of saffron and a little honey, and say, "Bismillah, you will be fine." And I would be fine. Modern science now says she was right. Saffron has antioxidants. It improves mood, reduces anxiety, helps in better sleep, and is good for the eyes and memory. Our mothers knew pharmacology without reading any pharmacology book. They had what no laboratory has – experience and love.

However, today this golden heritage is in danger. First, fake saffron has filled the market. People sell dyed corn silk, coloured paper, and even horsehair as Kashmiri saffron. Tourists buy it because it is cheap. The real farmer suffers because his hard work cannot compete with fake cheap colour. The only way to check real saffron is to put it in water – real saffron will slowly give a golden colour, never an immediate dark red, and it will not break easily.

Second, our saffron land is shrinking. Pampore, which was once called the saffron town, is slowly becoming a cement town. Fields are being converted into colonies and shops. The young generation does not want to work in the fields because it is hard work and less profitable. If this continues, one day we will tell our future generation that saffron used to grow here, like a story.

Pharmaceutical Gifts, Medicines and the Business of Healthcare

debate.

The central question is simple: when a company offers a gift to a doctor, is it merely promoting its product, or could it influence a decision that should be made exclusively in the patient's interest?

The Business Behind Medicines

The pharmaceutical industry operates in a highly competitive environment. Companies spend substantial amounts on research, production, clinical testing, regulatory compliance and marketing. Once a medicine enters the market, manufacturers seek to ensure that doctors know about its availability, benefits, safety profile and appropriate uses.

Medical representatives frequently visit hospitals, clinics and private practices to introduce new medicines. They provide product information, distribute educational materials and explain the advantages of their company's formulations. Such communication can be useful when it is scientifically accurate, balanced and transparent.

The difficulty arises when promotional activities move beyond the exchange of medical information. Expensive gifts, personal benefits, entertainment, sponsored holidays or lavish hospitality can create a situation in which commercial relationships begin to compete with professional responsibilities.

A medicine should be selected because it is effective, safe and appropriate for a particular patient – not because its manufacturer has offered an attractive benefit to the prescriber.

Why Do Pharmaceutical Companies

Offer Gifts?

Pharmaceutical companies want their products to be recognised and prescribed. In a crowded market, even a small increase in prescriptions can translate into substantial revenue. Building relationships with doctors is therefore an important part of the industry's marketing strategy.

Gifts may range from stationery, calendars and medical reference materials to meals, conference sponsorships and travel-related benefits. Not all such activities are unethical. Legitimate educational programmes, research grants and professional conferences can contribute to medical knowledge when they serve a genuine scientific purpose and follow appropriate safeguards.

However, a gift may create a sense of obligation, even when no explicit promise is made. Human psychology is influenced by reciprocity – the natural tendency to feel that a favour should be returned. A doctor may sincerely believe that a gift has no influence on prescribing decisions, yet repeated interactions can subtly affect familiarity, preferences or attitudes towards a particular brand.

This is why ethical standards must consider not only whether a doctor has consciously changed a prescription but also whether a commercial relationship creates an avoidable conflict of interest.

The Patient Must Come First

The doctor-patient relationship depends on confidence that medical advice is impartial.

Patients generally cannot independently assess every medicine, compare all available formulations or determine whether a more expensive brand offers a meaningful clinical advantage.

They rely on the doctor's knowledge and judgement.

Imagine a patient who requires a medicine for high blood pressure, diabetes or a bacterial infection. Several suitable options may be available. The choice should depend on factors such as clinical effectiveness, safety, contraindications, quality, affordability, interactions with other medicines and the patient's individual circumstances.

If a prescription is influenced by a company's promotional interests rather than these considerations, the patient's welfare may be compromised. The medicine prescribed might still be medically appropriate, but the decision-making process could become less transparent.

The concern is not that every doctor who receives a company-sponsored benefit acts improperly. Many healthcare professionals maintain strict ethical boundaries. The concern is that financial relationships can create conflicts of interest that are difficult for patients to identify and institutions to monitor.

Professional integrity requires avoiding both actual bias and circumstances that reasonably create an appearance of bias.

Are Expensive Medicines Always Better?

One of the most important consequences of excessive commercial influence may be its effect on the cost of treatment.



DC launches ‘YES, I CAN’ initiative from GCW Udhampur

Releases college publications, Book Culture & Colonialism

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 09: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today launched ‘YES, I CAN’, campaign here from Government College for Women. An initiative of the District Administration Udhampur, the inspirational campaign aims to encourage young minds to set high goals and strive for excellence in their field of interest.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Principal of the College Prof. Dr. Nalini Pathania, officers of the District Administration, faculty members and students.

Interacting with the media after the launch, the DC said that ‘YES, I CAN’ is an inspirational initiative

aimed at empowering, nurturing, igniting aspirations among youth. “The District Administration will help youth with the right guidance, direction and opportunities to help them realise their full potential,” he said.

He emphasised that Udhampur district possesses immense human potential, with talented students, dedicated teachers, hardworking families and youth capable of excelling in diverse fields. He stressed the need to create an enabling environment where young people believe in their abilities, receive proper guidance and develop the confidence to compete at the highest level.

The DC urged the head of the College and faculty members to encourage deserving and interested



students to actively participate in the initiative and make the best

use of the opportunities available through it.

Later, the GCW management organised a function in the Girls' Common Room to release its annual publications for the academic session 2026-27, including Science Pulse, Himtal and the College newsletter.

Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa formally released the publications in the presence of ADC Prem Singh and other dignitaries.

The event also witnessed the release of a book ‘Culture and Colonialism’ authored by Principal Prof. Dr. Nalini Pathania.

Earlier, the dignitaries were accorded a guard of honour by the NCC cadets of the College, followed by Saraswati Vandana, marking the formal commencement of the programme.

DIPR Reasi promotes health awareness, responsible AI use among students

HT News Network

REASI, OCTOBER 09: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Reasi Centre today

were encouraged to explore skill development programmes, entrepreneurship initiatives and other avenues for career development and self-employment.



organised a symposium here at Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) on the topics “Nutrition and Fitness” and “Use Artificial Intelligence Responsibly and Creatively” under the ongoing Youth Empowerment Programme in the district.

The symposium aimed to sensitize students about the importance of balanced nutrition, physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle, while promoting the ethical, responsible and creative use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Students were encouraged to adopt healthy eating habits, engage in regular physical activities and maintain their physical and mental well-being.

The programme witnessed active participation from students and faculty members. Students enthusiastically participated in the symposium and shared their views on healthy living and the responsible use of AI in daily life, reflecting their awareness of the importance of personal well-being and the constructive application of emerging technologies.

Later, an official from DIPR briefed the students about various youth-centric government schemes and employment opportunities available in Jammu and Kashmir. The students

Vice Principal of the School Hukam Chand, while addressing the gathering, emphasised the importance of healthy habits, physical fitness and the responsible use of AI by students for academic and other purposes. He appreciated the DIPR for organising the symposium and expressed hope that similar awareness programmes would be organised in the future.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of District Information Officer Mukesh Kumar Sharma. The initiative reaffirmed DIPR Reasi's commitment to promoting youth engagement, awareness and personality development through educational and informative activities.

Prizes were distributed among the students for their outstanding performances in the symposium. The programme. Students of KGBV Gurez, GHS Dawar, GHSS Gurez and GMS Wanpora presented traditional Sheena songs and dances, enthralling the audience and creating an atmosphere of celebration. The performances were appreciated by the gathering, with the audience visibly enjoying the colourful presentations rooted in the region's rich cultural traditions.

GDC Ganderbal Organizes ‘Yuva Sanwad Mela’ programme

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 09: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Ganderbal, in collaboration with MY BHARAT, organized a ‘Yuva Sanwad Mela’ under the ‘Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat – 100 Week Sankalp Abhiyan’, with the theme “Mera Swasthya, Mera Garv (Month 1)”.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Jamsheeda Akhter, NSS Programme Officer-cum-Nodal Officer, MY BHARAT, and aimed at creating awareness among youth about healthy



lifestyles, substance-abuse prevention, and the importance of building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Peerzada appreciated the efforts of the NSS Unit and encouraged students to become active ambassadors of a healthy and drug-free society. He emphasized the important role

of youth in shaping a healthier, stronger and more progressive nation.

Dr. Farooq Ahmad, the resource person, delivered an informative session on healthy living and highlighted the physical, mental and social consequences of substance abuse. He also sensitized students about adopting healthy habits and making informed lifestyle choices.

The session was moderated by Lubna, while Sahil Yaseen extended active student coordination and support during the programme.

Students mentored on road safety at KV Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 09: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, a Road Safety Awareness Programme was organised today at Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV), Kishtwar.

The Programme was organised by the Motor Vehicles Department in collaboration with the Traffic Police and 07 Assam Rifles, to sensitize students to road safety and responsible road behaviour.

More than 500 students and teachers participated in the programme. They were educated about traffic rules, road signs, the importance of wearing helmets and seat belts, avoiding over speeding



and adopting safe road practices.

The programme was attended by Dy. SP Traffic Shoket Ali; Captain 07 Assam Rifles Aditya Sharma; DTI Sandeep Parihar and MVI Robin Parihar. They highlighted the importance of promoting road safety awareness among students and encouraging them to become road safety ambassadors in their families and communities.

ADC Udhampur reviews arrangements for upcoming festivals

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 09: Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh today chaired a meeting with officers of line departments and civil society members to review arrangements for the smooth and peaceful celebration of Navratra, Dussehra and Maha Navami festivals.

Detailed discussions were held on different arrangements, including security, safe drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, first-aid facilities, sanitation, price regulation, availability of fire tenders, deployment of police personnel and traffic management in the town.

The ADC issued necessary directions to the heads of concerned departments to ensure comprehensive arrangements within their respective jurisdictions.

Special emphasis was laid on strengthening security measures to prevent any untoward incident during



the festive season.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department was directed to take effective measures for adequate supply of safe drinking water, while Executive Engineer PDD was instructed to maintain uninterrupted power supply throughout the festive period. The Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council was directed to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness across the town.

The ADC also urged civil society members to extend their cooperation in maintaining a clean and hygienic environment. The general public was advised to avoid roadside parking to maintain smooth traffic movement and prevent congestion.

Shopkeepers were urged to prominently display price lists of essential commodities to facilitate public awareness and prevent overcharging.

DCJ holds lecture on “AI for The Newsroom: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in The Newsroom”

HT News Network

Ganderbal, Oct 9: Department of Communication and Journalism (DCJ), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), organised a special lecture on “AI for the Newsroom: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in the Newsroom” at Tulmulla Campus here, on Wednesday.

The lecture was organised as part of the weekly Research Round Table meant for scholars and students to provide them with an opportunity to interact with media scholars and practitioners across India. Mr. Jatin Gandhi, noted Journalist and Journalism Trainer from New Delhi, was the resource person on the occasion.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, conveyed his wishes for the successful conduct of the session and highlighted the importance of AI in the field.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof.



Shahid Rasool, Dean Academic Affairs & Dean, School of Media Studies, emphasised the inevitability of AI's growing presence in journalism and the need for media professionals to engage with it critically. He said, “AI implementation cannot be escaped. It is the elephant in the room and cannot be kept under the carpet.” He also stressed that adopting AI must be accompanied by questions of effectiveness, ethics, and responsibility, particularly when AI is used to produce journalistic

content.

In his welcome address, Dr. Arif Nazir, HOD DCJ, discussed the need for Media & Information Literacy in the era of Artificial Intelligence. He stressed that there is a dire need to understand the complex information cycle in order to consume credible and relevant information.

Mr. Jatin Gandhi, in his address, highlighted the growing adoption of AI in the journalism industry. He emphasised the need for media organisations and academic

institutions to establish clear policies governing its use, he added, “We need an AI policy in the university or other institutions as soon as possible. A lot of media organisations do not yet have AI policies, while some media outlets have already integrated AI policies into their operations.” Mr. Jatin Gandhi discussed a range of applications of AI in the newsroom, including automated weather and stock reports, content repurposing, personalisation and algorithm-driven audience engagement. He highlighted the challenges posed by bias, hallucinations, inaccurate data and misleading results, stressing that journalists cannot rely on AI-generated information without verification.

He further said, “We are hyper-connected and have information overload. News organisations, in order to sustain themselves, need to connect with the audience.

Eight NIT Srinagar faculty members feature in World’s top 2% Scientists list

Global citation rankings recognise research contributions; Director, Registrar congratulate faculty

HT News Network

Srinagar, Oct 8: NIT Srinagar organised a cyber security awareness session for students of the Department of Civil Engineering to sensitise them about safe, responsible and secure use of digital technologies.

The session was conducted by Dr. Vivek, Assistant Professor, who discussed cyber hygiene, online safety, password security, phishing, social-engineering attacks, protection of personal data, safe use of social media and responsible use of digital platforms.

Students were advised to remain vigilant against suspicious links, messages,

emails and applications and to adopt secure digital practices.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion in which students raised queries related to cyber fraud, online safety and protection of personal information. Srinagar, October 9: Eight faculty members of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar have been featured in the 2026 edition of the World's Top 2% Scientists database, compiled by researchers associated with Stanford University and Elsevier, marking a significant recognition of the institute's research contributions.

The faculty members recognised in the database are



Dr. Vijay Kumar, Department of Physics; Dr. Neeraj Gupta,

Department of Electrical Engineering; Dr. Pravan Kumar

Katiyar, Department of Metallurgical and Materials

Engineering; Dr. Sandeep Samantaray, Department of Civil Engineering; Prof. Bashir Ahmad Mir, Department of Civil Engineering; Dr. Sandeep Rathee, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Prof. M. A. Shah, Department of Physics; and Dr. Tawseef Ayoub Shaikh, Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

Released this week, the database uses standardised citation indicators derived from Scopus data to assess researchers' scientific impact and contributions across disciplines.

The evaluation considers multiple bibliometric parameters, including citations, h-index, co-authorship-

adjusted h-index, career-long impact and single-year research performance.

Congratulating the faculty members, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, said the recognition reflected the Institute's sustained efforts to promote quality research and academic excellence.

He said the achievement was a matter of pride for the institute and acknowledged the faculty members' contributions to advancing knowledge in their respective fields. Their inclusion in the global database, he added, would further strengthen NIT Srinagar's academic and research profile and encourage a culture of innovation and scientific inquiry, Prof. Misra

added. Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, also congratulated the faculty members, describing the recognition as an encouraging reflection of the institute's research environment and academic commitment.

He said the achievement demonstrated the importance of sustained research, collaboration and scholarly engagement in strengthening the institute's academic standing.

Prof. Rehman also expressed confidence that the recognition would motivate students, research scholars and young faculty members to pursue innovative research and contribute to scientific advancement.





9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah activities conclude in Ramban

DC presides over closing ceremony

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 09: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today presided over the closing ceremony of the 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah held here at Maitra, marking the successful culmination of month-long activities aimed at promoting nutrition awareness, healthy dietary practices and community participation in combating malnutrition.

The programme was attended by District Programme Poshan Officer Abdul Qayoom; Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Rhythm Jandyal and other concerned officers and officials of the ICDS Department.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers, Helpers and beneficiaries, highlighting the crucial role of grassroots functionaries in achieving the objectives of Poshan Abhiyaan.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the sincerity, dedication and commitment of Anganwadi Workers in discharging their responsibilities. He congratulated the ICDS Department and its entire frontline



workforce for successfully conducting Rashtriya Poshan Maah activities across the district.

The DC observed that Anganwadi Workers play a multifaceted role in delivering government services, extending beyond nutritional support to include community mobilisation, awareness generation, maternal and child healthcare and early childhood education. He appreciated their sustained efforts in reaching beneficiaries in remote and difficult areas and underscored their vital contribution to the effective

implementation of government welfare schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, District Programme Officer Poshan highlighted the significant role of Anganwadi Workers in implementing nutrition-related interventions at the grassroots level. He appreciated their dedicated efforts in ensuring the delivery of services, particularly in far-flung and geographically challenging areas of the district. He emphasised that their contribution towards improving nutritional outcomes and promoting

early childhood development is integral to the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Earlier, CDPO, in her introductory address, highlighted the importance of Rashtriya Poshan Maah in generating awareness about nutrition, maternal and child health and early childhood care. She emphasised that the campaign aims to transform nutrition into a people's movement through active community participation and sustained awareness at the grassroots level. As part of the programme, Anganwadi Workers presented Poshan-themed songs and a street play highlighting the importance of millets and nutritious traditional foods as healthier alternatives to junk food. The performances conveyed the message of adopting balanced dietary habits and raised awareness about the adverse effects of unhealthy eating practices. The programme concluded with appreciation for the collective efforts of the ICDS Department and its frontline functionaries in advancing the objectives of Poshan Abhiyaan. The event reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to strengthening nutrition awareness, promoting healthy food choices and ensuring the well-being of women and children through sustained community engagement.

DC, Mentor review working of Revenue Department in Doda

Assess implementation status of Agristack, digitisation of Land Records

■ HT News Network

DODA, OCTOBER 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Krishan Lal, along with Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, who is also the Mentor for the digitization of land records for district Doda, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of digitization of land records and Agristack initiative, including creation of farmer IDs.

The meeting conducted a meticulous review of the progress of Agristack implementation, digitisation of land records, updation of Jamabandis, creation of farmer IDs, disposal of pending mutation cases and other important matters concerning revenue administration.

The deliberations centered on measures to ensure accuracy and transparency in land records, improve administrative efficiency and strengthen public service delivery. Emphasis was laid on expediting pending cases, adhering to prescribed timelines and ensuring effective coordination among revenue officials.

The DC stressed the need for maintaining accurate, updated and transparent revenue records to ensure efficient public service delivery and timely resolution of public grievances. He directed the revenue officers to closely monitor the progress of ongoing initiatives, expedite the disposal of pending mutation cases and ensure the timely updation of Jamabandis and land



records.

The Transport Commissioner also reviewed the physical Jamabandis and examined the status of revenue records. He directed the Patwaris concerned to expedite the work, identify and rectify deficiencies in the records and ensure that necessary corrections and updates are completed within the stipulated timeline.

The Transport Commissioner further reviewed the progress of Agristack implementation and the status of data uploading on the designated portal.

The meeting was attended by ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, ACR Ashraf Parvaz, Tehsildars, Chief Agriculture Officer, Naib Tehsildars, Patwaris and other concerned revenue officials.

Mushroom Farming Training Course concludes under Op Sadbhavana at Ramban

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 09: The Mushroom Farming Training Course 2026-27, organised by 23 Rashtriya Rifles under Op Sadbhavana in coordination with the District Agriculture Department, concluded successfully here today.

The initiative aimed at imparting practical skills to local youth enabling them to gain sustainable livelihood through mushroom cultivation.

Major Pankaj Gupta of 23 Rashtriya Rifles, while addressing the participants, appreciated the coordinated efforts of the Army and the Agriculture Department in organising the training programme. He highlighted the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare and socio-economic development of local communities, particularly those residing in rural and remote areas.

He emphasised that skill-oriented initiatives play a vital



role in empowering people and encouraging self-reliance. He also appreciated the technical support extended by the Agriculture Department and expressed hope that such collaborative efforts would continue to contribute towards rural development and livelihood generation in the district.

Chief Agriculture Officer Dr. Vinay Kumar Jandial highlighted the potential of mushroom cultivation as a viable subsidiary occupation, particularly for farmers and rural households with limited land resources. He said that mushroom farming requires comparatively less space and

offers opportunities for additional income and employment, especially for women and unemployed youth. He encouraged the trainees to apply the techniques learned during the course and avail themselves of the technical guidance and departmental support available for promoting mushroom cultivation.

The training programme was coordinated by District Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) Jyoti Prakash and Junior Agriculture Extension Officer (JAEO) Vikram Bandu, in coordination with Subedar Bhoj Raj Singh of 23 Rashtriya Rifles. The technical sessions,

DC Udhampur flags off exposure tour of progressive Kiwi growers to Arunachal Pradesh

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 09: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today flagged off a tour of group of local progressive kiwi orchardists and officials of the Horticulture Department on an exposure tour to Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh, here from the DC Office Complex.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan and other officers were present on the occasion.

The exposure tour has been organised with financial assistance from the District Administration Udhampur, in convergence with the Agricultural Technology Management Agency.

Interacting with the farmers, the DC highlighted the importance of adopting modern and scientific techniques for kiwi cultivation. He said the exposure visit would provide the participating kiwi growers with practical knowledge and firsthand experience in advanced cultivation and production technologies, along with value addition practices.

He expressed hope that the knowledge and skills acquired during the visit would help the farmers replicate successful kiwi cultivation practices in the Udhampur district. He expressed hope that the knowledge and skills acquired during the visit would help the farmers replicate successful kiwi cultivation practices in the Udhampur district.

Jammu Tawi Golf Course promotes Biodiversity through New Water Bodies, Bird-Feeding Points

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, OCTOBER 09: In a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability and biodiversity, Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC), Sidhra, has undertaken initiatives to create a more welcoming natural habitat for birds and wildlife across its expansive greens.

As part of its commitment to environmental conservation, the management of the golf course has developed 10 water bodies at strategic locations across the course, along with dedicated feeding points to attract and support birds and other wildlife.

The initiative reflects a growing emphasis on integrating ecological conservation with sporting infrastructure, demonstrating how golf courses can contribute to preserving the natural environment while offering a quality sporting experience.

The newly developed water bodies are intended to provide birds with access to water, while



the feeding points aim to encourage their regular presence across the course. These measures are expected to support local biodiversity and make the golf course a more vibrant natural habitat.

According to the information shared by the management, the results of these efforts are already becoming visible. Peacocks, geese, migratory birds and several other species are increasingly being spotted across the premises, adding to the natural beauty and ecological richness of the course.

The presence of these birds has also enhanced the overall golfing experience, allowing

players and visitors to enjoy the surroundings beyond the fairways and greens. The combination of landscaped playing areas, water bodies and wildlife offers an opportunity to experience golf in closer harmony with nature.

The initiative underscores the importance of responsible management of green spaces and the potential of recreational facilities to support environmental awareness. By creating suitable habitats and encouraging the presence of birdlife, JTGC is seeking to establish a balance between sporting activities and ecological well-being.

Vision care camp organised for inmates at District Jail Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 09: A vision care camp was organised today at District Jail

Udhampur in collaboration with Government Medical College Udhampur and KLSM Rotary Eye and ENT Hospital. The camp was held under the close supervision of the Jail Superintendent.

A team of doctors, led by Dr. Ayush Raina, Casualty Medical Officer, GMC and Dr. Saksham Kailoo, conducted the camp.

The medical team examined several inmates and provided them with the required medicines and spectacles free of cost.

Superintendent District Jail Mohammad Irfan Khan appreciated the efforts of the team of doctors, jail staff and medical staff led by Dr. Uttam Gupta, Medical Officer AYUSH for their cooperation and smooth coordination in ensuring the successful conduct of the camp.

He urged the Medical Superintendent to organise such camps at regular intervals for the welfare and healthcare of inmates. A team of doctors, led by Dr. Ayush Raina, Casualty

Medical Officer, GMC and Dr. Saksham Kailoo, conducted the camp. The medical team examined several inmates and provided them with the required medicines and spectacles free of cost.

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KVK Doda hosts Scientific Exposure Tour for 60 students of GHSS Chinta

Participants sensitized to modern agriculture, career opportunities in farming sector

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, OCTOBER 09: In an effort to bridge the gap between classroom education and practical farming, around 60 students of Government Higher Secondary School (HSS), Chinta, accompanied by their teachers, visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Doda for a one-day scientific exposure tour aimed at familiarising them with modern agricultural practices, technological advancements and emerging career opportunities in the agriculture sector.

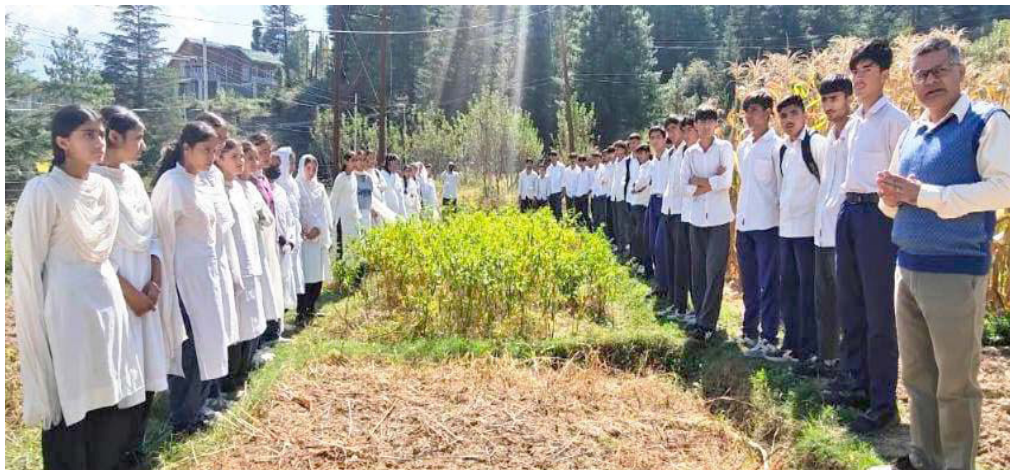
The visit was designed to provide students with hands-on learning experiences, technical knowledge and career guidance, enabling them to understand the growing relevance

of scientific agriculture and its potential for entrepreneurship and employment.

The students were warmly welcomed by Dr. Amit Singh Charak, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Doda, along with his team of expert scientists.

During an interactive session, Dr. Charak highlighted the pivotal role of KVK as a Farmer's Science Centre, serving as a vital link between laboratory research and field-level application. He briefed the students on the importance of adopting scientific methods and innovative technologies to improve agricultural productivity and promote sustainable farming.

The students were given detailed insights and live demonstrations on modern agricultural technologies,



integrated farming systems, organic farming, nursery management and high-tech polyhouse cultivation. The practical exposure enabled them to

gain first-hand knowledge of innovative farming techniques and the role of scientific interventions in transforming the agriculture sector.

A key highlight of the programme was the career guidance session, during which students were informed about the diverse opportunities

available in agriculture beyond conventional farming. These include careers as agricultural scientists and officers, agri-entrepreneurs and the establishment of agriculture-based startups.

Encouraging the students to explore the sector's entrepreneurial potential, Dr. Charak urged them to become job providers rather than job seekers by embracing innovation, modern agricultural technologies and agri-based entrepreneurship.

The staff and students of HSS Chinta expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Amit Singh Charak and his team for the informative session, practical demonstrations and guided tour of various demonstration units at KVK Doda. They observed that the exposure visit had been an enriching learning experience that

would help broaden students' understanding of agriculture and motivate them to explore promising career paths in the sector. Encouraging the students to explore the sector's entrepreneurial potential, Dr. Charak urged them to become job providers rather than job seekers by embracing innovation, modern agricultural technologies and agri-based entrepreneurship.

The staff and students of HSS Chinta expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Amit Singh Charak and his team for the informative session, practical demonstrations and guided tour of various demonstration units at KVK Doda. They observed that the exposure visit had been an enriching learning experience that would help broaden students' understanding of agriculture.





SDH Baderwah promotes Eye Health, Vision Care to mark World Sight Day

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, OCTOBER 09: Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Baderwah organized an awareness programme to mark World Sight Day 2026. The event centered on this year's theme, "Love Your Eyes-" to raise public awareness about the importance of eye health, regular eye examinations and timely treatment of vision-related problems.

The patients and attendants were informed about common eye diseases, preventive measures and the importance



of maintaining good eye health. The participants were encouraged to seek timely medical advice and undergo regular eye check-ups to prevent avoidable vision impairment.

Additionally, hospital health staff, including Senior Ophthalmic Technicians Sanjay Kumar and Raju Kumar, conducted Eye screening of several patients and visitors to

facilitate early detection of vision-related problems. Spectacles were also distributed among eligible beneficiaries as part of the programme.

The health staff emphasised that regular eye examinations, early detection and appropriate treatment play a vital role in protecting eyesight and reducing the risk of avoidable visual impairment. The health staff emphasised that regular eye examinations, early detection and appropriate treatment play a vital role in protecting eyesight and reducing the risk of avoidable visual impairment.

Kathua admin bids warm farewell to ADC Mahima Madan

HT News Network

KATHUA, OCTOBER 09: The District Administration Kathua today accorded a warm farewell to Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Mahima Madan on her transfer from the district. Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma along with ACR Vishav Partap Singh, CPO Ranjeet Thakur and other officers and officials of the district administration extended their



best wishes to outgoing ADC for her future assignments. The Deputy Commissioner

appreciated the contribution of Mahima Madan during her tenure in the district and

acknowledged her dedication, professionalism and commitment to public service. He wished her success in her future assignments and expressed confidence that she would continue to serve with the same zeal and dedication.

ADC Mahima Madan expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner and the entire team of the District Administration Kathua for their cooperation and support during her tenure.

India Post Celebrates National Postal Week from 9 to 15 October 2026

J&K Circle highlights financial inclusion, digital services, last-mile connectivity and export facilitation

HT News Network

Srinagar, October 9, 2026 India Post is celebrating National Postal Week from October 9 to 15, commencing with World Post Day, which commemorates the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874.

Addressing the media at the Srinagar GPO Complex, Chief Postmaster General, J&K Circle, Shri Sagar Hanuman Singh, extended greetings to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and reaffirmed the Department's commitment to reliable, technology-driven postal, banking, insurance, parcel and citizen-centric services.

Shri Singh said India Post's extensive network covers urban centres, rural villages, border areas and remote regions, including Doda, Kishtwar, Reasi, Rajouri, Gurez, Machil, Tetwal, Keran and Zanskar. He informed that the Department has opened more than 17 lakh Post Office Savings Bank accounts in Jammu and Kashmir, while core banking,



digital banking, e-KYC and India Post Payments Bank services, including doorstep banking, are strengthening financial inclusion. He also highlighted the role of the Sukanya Samridhi Account in securing the financial future of the girl child.

He stated that digitalisation, modern postal software, track-

and-trace facilities, computerised operations and self-booking kiosks are improving customer convenience. The Department also provides Speed Post, parcel and logistics services, Aadhaar enrolment and updation, Postal Life Insurance, Rural Postal Life Insurance and passport services through Post Office Passport Seva Kendras. He added that India Post supports government initiatives through the delivery of PMEGP kits to artisans and beneficiaries.

Highlighting export facilitation, Shri Singh said Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra helps exporters, artisans, craftsmen, MSMEs and small businesses access international markets

through assistance with export documentation, customs clearance, packaging, booking and tracking. Local products such as walnuts, saffron, handicrafts, carpets, Pashmina and handloom goods can benefit from this postal export channel. He also cited the Department's reported 99 per cent insurance claim settlement rate.

Shri Singh highlighted India Post's efforts to preserve the region's cultural and natural heritage through commemorative stamps and special covers. Of the 32 stamps highlighted by J&K Circle, 18 feature Kashmir-based themes, four Jammu-based themes, nine Ladakh-based themes and one a combined Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh theme, including subjects such as the Chinar Tree, Hangul, Pashmina, Mehjoor and Sindhu Darshan.

He also encouraged participation in the annual Dhai Akhar Letter Writing Competition, noting that the last date for submissions this year is October 31, 2026.

Acknowledging the dedication of officers and staff in maintaining uninterrupted public services, Shri Singh said India Post was embracing modern technology while preserving its legacy of trust, accessibility and public service. He reiterated the Department's commitment to connecting citizens and delivering essential services efficiently across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my Customer ID in my bank records is registered as ASIM IRSHAD RESHI and my Date of Birth mentioned therein is incorrect and does not match my actual Date of Birth. My correct name as per my school records and other official documents is AAHISH IRSHAD RESHI S/o IRSHAD AHMAD RESHI, Date of Birth 13-05-2006, Resident of Kachwa Muqam, Wagoora, Baramulla. The reason for this mismatch in my bank records is that the same were created on the basis of my old Aadhaar Card, which was not as per my school records. Now I have updated my Aadhaar Card as per my correct school records. I hereby declare that ASIM IRSHAD RESHI and AAHISH IRSHAD RESHI are one and the same person and there is no other person in the village by this name. I am now intending to get my bank records corrected as per my updated documents and school records. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in writing at J&K Bank, Branch Kalanar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained. Sd/ AAHISH IRSHAD RESHI"

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that I, Habib Bhatt S/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhatt, R/o Burzawachan, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, UT of J&K, have applied for correction of my name in my Aadhaar record. My correct and full name is HABIB BHATT, whereas the name has been mentioned as HABIBULLAH BHAT in the Aadhaar record. Any person having any objection regarding the said correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period. In the absence of any objection, the necessary correction may be carried out as per rules. Applicant HABIB BHATT

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that I, Habib Bhatt S/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhatt, R/o Burzawachan, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, UT of J&K, have applied for correction of my name in my Aadhaar record. My correct and full name is HABIB BHATT, whereas the name has been mentioned as HABIBULLAH BHAT in the Aadhaar record. Any person having any objection regarding the said correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period. In the absence of any objection, the necessary correction may be carried out as per rules. Applicant HABIB BHATT

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Aijaz Ahmad Ganie S/o Abdul Rahman Ganie R/o Checki kawoosa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his daughter Raziya D/o Aijaz Ahmad Ganie. The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his daughter as school records 14/05/2010. If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice. No objection will be entertained. 05/10/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Ali Mohmad Rather S/o Gh Ahmad Rather R/o Mati pora Tehsil Pattan District Baramullah applied for the name caste correction in his own addhar card. The applicant name has been inadvertently recorded aadhar card as Ali Mohmad. The applicant intends to register the correct name as Ali Mohmad Rather S/o Gh Ahmad Rather in the aadhar card. If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned publication office authorities within a period of seven days and after the publication of said Notice. No objection will be entertained. 05/10/2026

FDA organises FoSTaC Training for Street Food Vendors at Anantnag

200 vendors trained; hygiene kits and FoSTaC certificates distributed

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 9: Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, in collaboration with the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), organised a Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) programme at Town Hall, Anantnag. The programme, sponsored by Nestlé India, was attended by 200 street food vendors and Food Business Operators (FBOs), with another 100 vendors scheduled to be covered in the subsequent session.

During the training, participants were sensitized about food safety requirements, personal hygiene, safe food handling practices, prevention of food contamination, the hazards of repeatedly using cooking oil, the use of unauthorised synthetic food colours and the use of newspapers for wrapping or serving food. Emphasis was also laid on maintaining cleanliness and hygienic conditions at food preparation and vending sites to ensure that safe and wholesome food is served to



consumers.

The participants were apprised of their responsibilities under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the rules and regulations framed thereunder. They were encouraged to adopt good hygiene practices in their daily business operations. Hygiene kits were also distributed among the participants, and FoSTaC certificates were provided to those completing the prescribed training requirements.

Similar training programmes will be organised in other districts of the Union Territory in the coming days, with a focus on street food vendors and other Food Business Operators, particularly those dealing in high-risk food categories.

The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of food handlers, improve compliance with food safety standards and promote hygienic street food vending practices. Measures to facilitate food business

registration, wherever applicable, and promote clean and hygienic street food hubs will also be pursued in accordance with the applicable provisions and schemes.

The FDA, J&K, reiterated its commitment to promoting food safety through training, awareness, regular inspections and enforcement, with the objective of ensuring the availability of safe, hygienic and quality food to the general public across the Union Territory. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of food handlers, improve compliance with food safety standards and promote hygienic street food vending practices. Measures to facilitate food business registration, wherever applicable, and promote clean and hygienic street food hubs will also be pursued in accordance with the applicable provisions and schemes. The FDA, J&K, reiterated its commitment to promoting food safety through training, awareness, regular inspections and enforcement, with the objective of ensuring the availability of safe, hygienic and quality food to the general public across the Union Territory.



Match Schedule announced for Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 9 :The stage is set for the men's Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026, with the match schedule for the prestigious continental tournament announced by the Asian Hockey Federation on Friday. The tournament will be held from October 27 to November 5 across two iconic hockey venues in Punjab - the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar and the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali.

Jalandhar will host all league-stage matches from October 27 to November 2, before the action shifts to Mohali for the business end of the tournament.

The semi-finals and medal matches will be played at the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium, with the semi-scheduled for November 4 and the bronze-medal and gold-medal matches on November 5.

The tournament holds special significance for Punjab, a state that is regarded as the nursery of Indian hockey and has produced generations of iconic players who have contributed to the country's rich hockey legacy.

The return of international hockey to Punjab promises to bring the sport closer to its passionate fan base while showcasing the state's enduring connection with the game.

The tournament will feature six of Asia's leading hockey nations - title holders and reigning Asian Games champions India, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, China and Bangladesh. Fresh from successfully defending their Asian Games gold medal in Japan, five-time ACT winners India will enter the tournament as the top-

ranked team and will look to continue their strong record in the competition.

The opening ceremony will take place on October

2023 and 2024. The hosts will now aim to add another chapter to their impressive record when they take on Asia's best in front of a passionate home crowd in



27, shortly before India play Bangladesh in their campaign opener. The six teams will compete in a single round-robin league phase, with each team playing five matches. The top four teams at the end of the league stage will qualify for the semi-finals.

India will face Bangladesh on October 27, followed by matches against China on October 29, Japan on October 30, Malaysia on November 1 and South Korea on November 2. All five of India's league matches are scheduled to start at 1900 hrs IST. The tournament will have three rest days on October 28, October 31 and November 3. India are the most successful side in the history of the Asian Champions Trophy, having won the title in 2011, 2016, 2018 (joint winners with Pakistan),

Punjab. "The announcement of the match schedule adds to the excitement for the Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026. We are delighted to welcome the teams from across Asia to Punjab and look forward to witnessing some high-quality hockey," said Hockey India President, Dilip Tirkey. Hockey India Secretary General, Bhola Nath Singh, also shared his sentiments. "With the schedule now announced, the countdown to the Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026 has truly begun. Hockey India is proud to host the participating nations and showcase the passion and hospitality of Punjab. We look forward to an exciting and competitive tournament that brings fans closer to the sport while giving every team an opportunity to perform at the highest level."

Ranji Trophy: Jadeja named in Saurashtra squad for Ranji Trophy opener

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 9 :Star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been named in Saurashtra's 16-member squad for their Ranji Trophy 2026-27 opener against Chhattisgarh, with veteran left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat set to lead the side.

Jadeja recently featured in India's 2-1 ODI series win over the West Indies, taking two wickets in two matches without getting an opportunity to bat. The Ranji Trophy will give the left-arm spin all-rounder a chance to build his red-ball rhythm ahead of India's two-Test tour of New Zealand next month.

The Test series begins in Wellington from November 19-23, followed by the second match in Christchurch from November 27 to December 1.

Saurashtra will begin their campaign at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot on October

11. The former champions are placed in Elite Group B alongside Andhra, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Hyderabad, Karnataka, Punjab and Tripura.



Saurashtra have retained 14 players from last season's squad, with pacer Neel Pandya and all-rounder Arth Yadav the two new additions. The team will look to improve on its group-stage

Naresh Gotte wins South Zone Tenpin Bowling Tournament Title

United News Of India

HYDERABAD, OCT 9 : Naresh Gotte of Telangana won the Title at the South Zone Tenpin

Bowling Tournament concluded at Game Xtreme, Hitech City, Hyderabad. In the finals, played on the cumulative

3rd seed Parthiban J (320) and 7th seed Shanmugananda (KAR) (324). In Match 2, 8th seed Naresh G (TG) won against 4th seed Aditya Varma (TG) (363) and 6th seed Goutham Abhilash (AP) (368). Winners of Match 1 and Match 2 moved on to next round to play against 2nd seed Mahipal Singh (TN). In Match 3, 8th seed Naresh G (TG) scored



pinfall of two games, 8th seed Naresh G (TG) gained a strong 32-pin lead in Game 1 against top seed Naveen Siddam of Telangana (180 - 148).

Naveen mounted a spirited fightback in Game 2, outscoring Naresh 173-158, but the deficit of 32 pins from the opening game proved too substantial to overturn. Naresh held his nerve to secure a 17-pin aggregate victory, 338-321, completing a remarkable run from the eighth qualifying spot to lift the South

Zone Tenpin Bowling Tournament Title. Earlier, in the knockout Round played based on cumulative pinfall of two games, in Match 1, 5th seed

Anand Babu (TN) (384) won against

356 to win against winner of Match 1 Anand Babu (TN) (303) and 2nd seed Mahipal Singh (TN) (348) and moved to Finals to play against top seed Naveen Siddam (TG). Naveen Siddam followed in 2nd position. Mahipal Singh of Tamil Nadu (TN) finished 3rd, with his state-mate Anand Babu taking 4th. Goutham Abhilash of Andhra Pradesh (AP) placed 5th, Aditya Varma (TG) 6th, Shanmugananda of Karnataka (KAR) 7th, and Parthiban (TN) 8th.

Among the special prizes, Naveen Siddam (TG) won both awards: the highest average in a 6-game block (202.33) and the highest average over 18 games (189.00).

Three Riflewomen of Assam Rifles played in Indian football team against Russia

United News Of India

AGARTALA, OCT 8 :Three women footballers from the Assam Rifles Football Team represented the Indian Women's National Football Team in an international friendly match against the Russian Women's National Football Team at Kishore Bharati Kriangan in Kolkata yesterday. An Assam Rifles statement said today that Riflewomen Thingbaijam Babysana Devi, Santosh and Sorokhaibam Ranjana Chanu were selected for their consistent performances, dedication and outstanding contributions to the DGAR Football Team, and they performed well against Russia. The match provided them an opportunity to compete on an international platform, which will give them much-needed experience to improve themselves. The Indian Women's National Football Team will play its next match against the Russian Team on Oct 11. "The participation of women is a matter of immense pride for Assam Rifles and highlights the organisation's continued commitment towards identifying, nurturing and promoting sporting talent among its personnel. Also, the achievement of Riflewomen will serve as an inspiration for young women to pursue sports as a career option," the statement added.

Cummins, Australia in Test groove for South Africa series

United News Of India

DURBAN, OCT 9 :Be it the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings or the current ICC World Test Championship Standings, South Africa and Australia occupy the top-two spots.

Both teams were also the finalists at last year's WTC Final, a clash that saw South Africa emerge triumphant. The game and the pedigree of the opposition are something Australia are very well familiar with.

"(It) looks like a well-balanced side, which South Africa always have," Australia captain Pat Cummins said about the Proteas playing XI on the eve of their series opener.

"They've always got kind of big squads to choose from. So, it looks like they're going to be a challenge to spinners. It obviously tells you that they think it might turn a little bit out there,"

added about the conditions on offer in Durban. Australia arrive into the Test series on the back of a 2-1 loss in the ODIs. Cummins believes the

key to their success against a well-rounded

South African side will be to get into the groove of the longest format, according to ICC.

"For the batters and for the bowling group as well, getting into that grind is important. We



haven't played too many of those kinds of Test matches in the last few years, particularly in Australia," he said.

"They've been quite fast-paced. A lot of our success has come off big moments, be it a Travis Head century or Starc (fast bowler Mitchell Starc) running through the top order, but I think we've got to get a little bit better, and we can get a bit better getting into the grind."

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